

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 15 as follows:

1           Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile agent  
2   that travels through a network of a number of computers, wherein the  
3   mobile agent is executed in a sequence of stages and wherein each stage  
4   comprises a set of places, the method comprising the following steps:  
5           executing the mobile agent in at least one of the set of places of a  
6   respective one of the stages,  
7           evaluating in which place of the respective stage the mobile agent  
8   has been executed successfully,  
9           agreeing on a primary place among the set of places,  
10          aborting and/or undoing any operation in connection with the mobile  
11   agent in any other place of the respective stage,  
12          moving a modified mobile agent resulting from the successful  
13   execution to the next stage to at least two forwarding places, and  
14          wherein agreeing on a primary place among the set of places includes  
15   generating a decision in each stage, the decision including the primary  
16   place that corresponds to the place in which the mobile agent has executed  
17   successfully, the set of places of the next stage to which the modified  
18   mobile agent is moved, and the resulting modified mobile agent.

1           Claim 2. (original)           The method of claim 1 wherein the steps are  
2   repeated for any one of the sequence of stages.

1           Claim 3. (original)           The method of claim 1 wherein the mobile  
2   agent is executed sequentially in the set of places of the respective  
3   stage, and wherein the mobile agent is not executed anymore in subsequent  
4   places after successful execution in one of the set of places and  
5   agreement on this successful execution.

1           Claim 4. (cancelled)

1           Claim 5. (previously presented)           The method of claim 1 wherein at  
2   least one of the primary place and/or the set of places of the next stage  
3   and/or the resulting modified mobile agent is confirmed to at least all  
4   other places of the respective stage except the primary place.

1           Claim 6. (previously presented)           The method of claim 1 wherein at  
2   least one of the primary place and/or the set of places of the next stage

3 and/or the resulting modified mobile agent is moved to all places of the  
4 next stage.

1 Claim 7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the move is  
2 performed as a reliable forward function.

1 Claim 8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps are  
2 managed by a fault-tolerance enabler (FTE) which is independent of the  
3 mobile agent.

1 Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the FTE  
2 travels with the mobile agent to the set of places of the respective  
3 stage.

1 Claim 10. (currently amended) A computer program product embodied in  
2 computer memory comprising program code means for use for operating a  
3 mobile agent that travels through a network of a number of computers,  
4 wherein the mobile agent is executed in a sequence of stages and wherein  
5 each stage comprises a set of places, the computer program product  
6 comprising instructions for:  
7 executing the mobile agent in at least one of the set of places of a  
8 respective one of the stages,  
9 evaluating in which place of the respective stage the mobile agent  
10 has been executed successfully,  
11 agreeing on a primary place among the set of places,  
12 aborting and/or undoing any operation in connection with the mobile  
13 agent in any other place of the respective stage,  
14 moving a modified mobile agent resulting from the successful  
15 execution to the next stage to at least two forwarding places, and  
16 generating a decision in each stage, the decision including the  
17 primary place that corresponds to the place in which the mobile agent has  
18 executed successfully, the set of places of the next stage to which the  
19 modified mobile agent is moved, and the resulting modified mobile agent.

1 Claim 11. (original) Computer program product according to claim  
2 10, wherein the program code means is stored on a computer-readable  
3 medium.

1 Claim 12. (previously presented) A network of a number of  
2 computers in which a mobile agent is traveling through, wherein the

3 network comprises a sequence of stages, wherein each stage comprises a set  
4 of places, and wherein the mobile agent is executed in at least one of the  
5 set of places of a respective one of the stages, the network comprising:

6 means for evaluating in which place of the respective stage the  
7 mobile agent has been executed successfully,

8 means for agreeing on a primary place among the set of places, means  
9 for aborting and/or undoing any operation in connection with the mobile  
10 agent in any other place of the respective stage, and

11 means for moving a modified mobile agent resulting from the  
12 successful execution to the next stage to at least two forwarding places,  
13 and

14 means for generating a decision in each stage, the decision  
15 including the primary place that corresponds to the place in which the  
16 mobile agent has executed successfully, the set of places of the next  
17 stage to which the modified mobile agent is moved, and the resulting  
18 modified mobile agent.

1 Claim 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein  
2 the mobile agent is a computer program that acts autonomously on behalf of  
3 an agent owner or user and that travels through a network of a number of  
4 computers.

1 Claim 14. (previously presented) The computer program product of  
2 claim 10, wherein the mobile agent is a computer program that acts  
3 autonomously on behalf of an agent owner or user and that travels through  
4 a network of a number of computers.

1 Claim 15. (currently amended) The network of claim 12, wherein the  
2 mobile agent is a computer program embodied in computer memory that acts  
3 autonomously on behalf of an agent owner or user and that travels through  
4 a network of a number of computers.

1 Claim 16. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein  
2 non-primary places are configured to verify the modified mobile agent has  
3 successfully arrived at the set of places of the next stage to which the  
4 modified mobile agent is moved.

1 Claim 17. (previously presented) The computer program product of  
2 claim 10, wherein non-primary places are configured to verify the modified

3 mobile agent has successfully arrived at the set of places of the next  
4 stage to which the modified mobile agent is moved.

1           Claim 18. (previously presented)       The network of claim 12, wherein  
2 non-primary places are configured to verify the modified mobile agent has  
3 successfully arrived at the set of places of the next stage to which the  
4 modified mobile agent is moved.